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BOMBS EXPLODE AT COMMUNIST HEADQUARTERS

PY081740Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1520 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar--Reliable sources reported here today that two bombs went off early this morning in front of the building of the Communist Party Central Committee.

One of the bombs was placed under an automobile parked in front of the building and the explosion totally destroyed the car, despite the efforts of firemen. The second bomb went off at the front entrance of the building, breaking the door, destroying masonry and shattering glass.

The bombs, which went off at 0135 local time (0435 GMT), did not cause any injuries.

MATERIALS ON RAILROAD WORKERS' STRIKE IN CAPITAL

Railways Issue Denial

PY082040Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1728 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Text of second communique issued by Argentine Railways in Buenos Aires on 8 March 1978]

[Text] Argentine Railways reports to the public that the communique released by electric train conductors of the "La Fraternidad" union, stating that Argentine Railways officials have ignored or want to ignore the instructions from the national executive branch to solve the salary problem, is completely untrue.

On the contrary, Argentine Railways has taken account of top salaries, in complete agreement with the guidelines established by the national executive branch. This is clearly an ill-intentioned action aimed at obtaining support for the strike through erroneous information.

Leaders Ordered Arrested

PY082018Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2000 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar--According to a communique of the state-owned Argentine Railways enterprise today, the government ordered the arrest of railroad union leaders who had announced a strike for tomorrow demanding better pay.

The communique indicated that those who participate in the strike tomorrow will be liable for dismissal or sentenced to prison for up to 10 years, in line with the national security regulations issued by the military government. It was not reported how many union leaders are affected by the arrest warrant or if the arrests had taken place or not.

The strike scheduled for tomorrow may paralyze the Sarmiento, Mitre and Urquiza branches, which are the main connections with the suburbs of greater Buenos Aires.

The call for the strike was made to demand a minimum salary of approximately $142 per month, about twice the current one. The railroad workers staged a strike last October also demanding better pay, in spite of having been threatened with severe punishment similar to those announced today. At that time the strike was joined by subway workers and certain sectors of public workers. The strikers obtained partial raises and were promised more money this year. Now they are saying that the promises have not been fulfilled.

Union Rejects Strike

PY082252Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2210 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Text of communique issued by "La Fraternidad" union in Buenos Aires on 8 March 1978]

[Text] Concerning the unilateral decision made without consultation by motormen of electric trains of the sections San Martin, Victoria, Lynch and Castelar to carry out a 24-hour stoppage, La Fraternidad--a union of railway motorpersonnel--publicly rejects the decision and calls on fellow workers to reflect and to continue working normally. This type of action does not solve the problems railway personnel now face, but only blocks a search for appropriate solutions within the effort for recovery in which we are all engaged.

[Signed] Luis H. Etchezar, vice president; Assistant Treasurer Cayetano V. Dagostino

Ministry Threatens Strikers

PY090202Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2355 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Text of communique issued by Argentine Labor Ministry in Buenos Aires on 8 March]

[Text] In accordance with Article 659 of Law 21,400, any person instigating workers or employees to employ or adopt measures of force under circumstances specified in Article 1 will be punished with 1 to 6 years in prison. When the instigation is of a public nature, the penalty will be 3 to 10 years in prison. In view of the strike announced by leaders of four factions of the society of train conductors, the Labor Ministry announces that those violating these regulations will be put at the disposition of federal judges, as provided by Article 13 of the law.

Actions of this nature tend to disrupt normal relations between management and labor and in this case are aggravated by the fact that they affect an essential public service and were carried out without the knowledge of the union responsible for the interests of the affected sector. This can only obstruct the government's firm objectives established by the national reorganization process.

The Labor Ministry believes it is necessary to reiterate once again that the government is not insensitive to the problems suffered by workers and is aware of their importance.

However, it would like to recall that solutions will be found only with the cooperation of all parties within a climate of order and mutual respect, within the framework of existing legal dispositions, and by subordinating sectional interests to the nation's interests.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON BILATERAL MEETING

PY071826Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 7 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Energy Under Secretary Bernardo Bronstein has stated that the Brazilian-Argentine bilateral meeting held in Brasilia in no way involves the exclusion of third countries from talks intended to harmonize the various plans for the use of the Parana River.

In answer to a question on whether the meeting in Brasilia would mean the exclusion of Paraguay, he answered that there is a clear difference between talks and negotiations. He added: "We went to Brazil solely to exchange points of view, that is, we went to talk. But we cannot make decisions without the necessary presence of the three countries--Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay."

Then he said that the most important fact, "in my opinion," is that the trilateral meeting will proceed on schedule, on 14 March. This fact alone shows our desire for dialog and consequently, our positive hopes for progress. In this regard he explained that the trilateral meeting in Asuncion will continue to discuss those subjects which obviously and naturally create expectations. Bronstein stated: "Let me just say that I will not allow myself to classify such expectations as either a victory or a defeat for a country, regarding [the height of a dam expressed in] numbers."

Bronstein finally stated: "This should not be so. We hope to find a satisfactory solution, a solution which will finally harmonize the interests and respect of the three countries, for their common good.

DELEGATION FOR TRIPARTITE MEETING NAMED

PY081733Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1233 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar--A Foreign Ministry source reported today that the Argentine delegation to the next tripartite meeting on the hydroelectric exploitation of the Parana River has been appointed. The negotiations among Argentina, Brazil and Parguay will begin 14 March in Asuncion, Paraguay.

The Argentine delegation will be headed by Capt Gualter Allara, Foreign Ministry under secretary; Minister Arturo Ossorio Arana, head of the River Plate Basin Commission; Minister Nestor Martinez, director of the Latin American department; and Engineer Bernardo Bronstein, energy under secretary.

The meeting will also be attended by Rear Adm Horacio Colombo (ret), head of the Argentine-Paraguayan Parana River Joint Commission; Gen Sergio Novoa (ret), Argentine ambassador to Paraguay; and Oscar Camilion, Argentine ambassador to Brazil.

The Foreign Ministry source added that the delegates to the tripartite meeting will meet with Foreign Minister Vice Adm Oscar Antonio Montes within the next few hours.

MILITARY JUNTA MEETS IN BUENOS AIRES

PY071306Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0645 GMT 7 Mar 78 PY

[Communique issued in Buenos Aires on 6 March 1978 by acting military junta secretary Adm Eduardo Fracassi]

[Text] The military junta met today, 6 March 1978, at its headquarters, the National Congress Building, between 1830 and 2015.

During the meeting the junta members were briefed by Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes on the results of the recent bilateral meeting held in Brasilia regarding the Corpus and Itaipu hydroelectric projects.

Later, Lt Gen Pablo Osvaldo Apella, president of the Argentine delegation to the joint Argentine-Chilean commission, delivered an extensive briefing on the issues discussed in Santiago, Chile on 1, 2 and 3 March, in accordance with the act of Puerto Montt.

MEETING FAILS TO RECONCILE PEREDA, FSB

PY070308Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 4 Mar 78 p 1 PY

[Text] According to a reliable source, a meeting held this week in order to reconcile the Bolivian Socialist Falange (FSB) with Gen Juan Pereda Asbun's candidacy has failed, clearly establishing the differences between the two sectors.

The meeting, held at a private residence, was attended by FSB leaders headed by Mario Gutierrez, high-ranking government officials, and General Pereda, together with his advisers and members of his team.

During the meeting, which lasted several hours, the FSB reasserted its reasons for carrying out a line of action independent from that of the former interior minister and for presenting its own ticket for the elections.

According to our source, the FSB also insisted that it was necessary to make substantial amendments in the guidelines instituted by the military government on 9 November 1974.

PEREDA ASBUN SPEAKS AT POTOSI RALLY

PY070353Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 5 Mar 78 p 3 PY

[Text] Gen Juan Pereda Asbun has called for a dialog with extremists and invited them to show what they are doing for the benefit of the Bolivian people. This took place during a massive rally of workers, peasants and members of the middle class held in Potosi, during which he was proclaimed presidential candidate.

The proclamation was held at 10 de Noviembre Square, where a small group tried to disrupt the rally. The members of the group were immediately arrested by the peasants and General Pereda asked for them to be released because "no one should be left out of the democratic process which the armed forces government is implementing."

Pereda stated: "This square, the site of great historical events and now the witness of the quality of the Bolivian people who are giving their support to the transformation of the country and the rise of the new Bolovia, is also the place where a small group is trying to hinder dialog with the people."

He then went on to say that the patience of the people has a limit, and added that the provocateurs will obtain no response "because they are confronting mature people, people who have experienced a process of development which began in 1971."

Addressing those who had attempted to disrupt the rally, he said: "If you have come to talk, let us do so at the ideological level, not at the level of those who throw stones and hide away, because nobody has been forced to come to this square--not even the hecklers."

The words of the Nationalist candidate received strong applause.

At the end of his speech he indicated that the creation of the People's Nationalist Union [UNP] would provide an answer for the country's political crisis because it consists of nine parties with clear-cut objectives and because "we are not united by a mere preelectoral attitude but by the need to complement each other and carry out important measures such as the nationalization of the mines, agrarian reform and other social gains."

According to reports, General Pereda's arrival in Potosi met with huge demonstrations when people filled the streets to express their full support for his candidacy.

Yesterday in Copacabana, peasants of Manco Kapac Province also proclaimed the presidential candidacy of General Pereda.

The proclamation took place at a rally of peasants and farmers from different communities. During this rally the main leaders praised the positive actions of the armed forces government.

The speakers indicated that "the extremists are trying to take advantage of the freedoms granted by the government in order to deceive Bolivians once again, both in cities and in rural areas. However, they will not be able to achieve their objectives because all Bolivians are now aware of the true meaning of the slogan: Order, Peace and Progress."

MNR FACTION ASKS FOR BANZER RESIGNATION

PY070329Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 2 Mar 78 p 2 PY

[Text] Sucre--German Gutierrez, chief of command of the historic National Revolutionary Movement [MNR], told this reporter that his party had asked for the resignation of Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez as president of the nation and commander of the armed forces in order to guarantee democratic elections, since the presidency and armed forces have become partial to the candidacy of Gen Juan Pereda Asbun.

The movement's leader proposed that the president of the Supreme Court of Justice preside over the upcoming elections to observe the state's constitution. Gutierrez Ortega said that these proposals had been decided upon in La Paz, and that his entire party agreed that the proposals were the most fair under present circumstances.

With regard to a possible candidate from his party for the presidency,he said they were awaiting the arrival of Victor Paz at government headquarters, and that they would then hold a convention to decide the issue.

He also said his party hopes for broad guarantees for the democratic elections, and that the electoral court will not become partial to any specific political group.

MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN CONGRESS SOUGHT

PY070132Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 6 Mar 78 PY

[Text] The Social Christian Party, which forms part of the People's Nationalist Union [UNP], will propose the participation of representatives of the armed forces in the congress. This statement was made by journalist Jaime Humerez Seleme, one of the leaders of this political party which returned to activity after more than a decade.

The Social Christian leader said it would not be necessary for them to be elected by voting. Instead, once the congress is established, a military representation would be allowed to offer opinions, ideas and experience concerning national problems. However, this would require a modification of the constitution. Humerez is of the opinion that the armed forces should directly participate in the nation's affairs. The opinion was offered when discussing the return of the military to their barracks once the nation's constitutionalization was completed. Humerez said this does not mean that the military should lock themselves within their barracks walls, but that they should directly participate in the nation's problems in the executive or legislative branches.

He also stated that the UNP's members are enthusiastically contributing to Juan Perada's electoral campaign with 5-peso bonds. These are spontaneous contributions which discredit the opposition's campaign that federal funds are being used for the former interior minister's electoral campaign.

TIN PRICE INCREASES TO BE SOUGHT

PY080132Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 7 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Bolivia will insist on a revision of tin price scales during the meeting of the International Tin Council to be held on 4 April in London, according to Mining Minister Ernesto Camacho.

The mining minister stated to Cruz del Sur that the outlines of the policy defending our principal raw material will be considered during the second half of this month by the Bolivian Tin Council [CIEBOL] advisory board. He said that contacts would be made with other tin-producing countries to form a bloc to defend ourselves from tin-consuming nations.

Bolivia, as the second largest exporter of tin in the world, will insist on a revision of maximum and minimum price scales for the semiprecious mineral, emphasized the mining minister.

As you will recall, the government has already denounced the stubborn position of consuming nations which opposed a price adjustment for the important mineral. This position was backed by the United States, the FRG, and Japan.

The government announced that a policy designed to defend tin prices would be developed. It was also announced that the committee which will participate in the upcoming International Tin Council meeting would present substantial arguments which would allow for price stability.

In his statements to Cruz del Sur, the mining minister said that the CIEBOL advisory board would study the basis for an effective policy designed to find adequate solutions for tin price fluctuations on the international market.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVES 1978 BUDGET

PY071406Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 4 Mar 78 p 1 PY

[Excerpt] The 1978 national budget is approximately 19 percent higher than that of 1977. The Council of Ministers approved yesterday the nation's general budget for 1978 of 55,593,429,100 Bolivian pesos, of which 11,656,137,500 pesos are earmarked for the national treasury.

In a brief statement to the press on leaving the cabinet session, Finance Minister David Blanco Zabala said that the national budget has been prepared using balance as a criterion and seeks to encompass the various development sectors.

"We closed the gaps which appeared in some sectors," he said. He added that two fundamental aspects had been considered within the guidelines of the country's new economic policy: 1) the budget of the public sector and the programmatic guidelines which will be made public next week; and, 2) financial planning, including foreign exchange of the Central Bank, so that this institution may no longer be restricted to traditional banking operations but may also engage in operations encompassing the entire banking system, including state-owned and private commercial banks.

GOVERNMENT NOT RUSHING TO SEND AMBASSADOR TO CHILE

PY081753Y La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] A Foreign Ministry source has confirmed to "Primera Edicion" [Radio Fides newscast] that the Bolivian Government will not send a new ambassador to Santiago at present. Since the recall, 4 months ago, of Adalberto Violand, our ambassador in the Chilean capital, there has been no official Bolivian representative in Chile. Bolivian affairs in the neighboring country have been handled by a charge d'affaires, career diplomat Augustin Saavedra.

The absence of a Bolivian ambassador in Santiago is motivated by the cooling of relations between the two governments. The stagnation of the maritime negotiations has led to protests in official and journalistic circles in La Paz. "Primera Edicion" has been told that the present diplomatic situation will continue as long as the current circumstances between the two countries exist. When an embassy is headed by a charge d'affaires and not by an ambassador, the nature of the diplomatic situation changes.

The statements regarding maritime negotiations made in Quito yesterday by Chilean carabineros Gen Cesar Mendoza have been heard in La Paz. It has been stated in unidentified political circles that the Chilean position has experienced a substantial change regarding Bolivia. Initially, the Chileans held bilateral talks with Bolivia regarding its return to the sea, (?with the understanding) that Peru would have the last word on the subject. In any case, there has been no official statement or reaction by the Bolivian Foreign Ministry to General Mendoza's words.

BRIEFS

LABOR LEADERS RETURN--Two Bolivian labor leaders and one mining leader returned to Bolivia after several years of exile in Caracas. Victor Lopez Arias, secretary general of the Mineworkers Federation; (Luis Lopez Altamirano), high-ranking leader of the La Paz Factory Workers Federation; and Lucio Lopez, a Manaco [La Paz shoe factory] leader, returned to Bolivia last weekend, under the general amnesty announced by the military government. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 7 Mar 78 PY]

OPPOSITION DEPUTY CALLS FOR A-BOMB PRODUCTION

PY090209Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2037 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 8 Mar--Federico Trotta, [state] deputy for the only Brazilian legal opposition party, today reasserted Brazil's right to build atomic bomb. The MOB deputy made this statement at the plenary meeting of the Rio de Janeiro State Legislative Assembly when commenting on the nuclear policy of the Brazilian Government.

According to Federico Trotta, the Brazilian Government has guaranteed to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes alone. But he stressed: "I believe, however, that since the United States, France, the Soviet Union, India, the PRC and South Africa have the atomic bomb, we too should manufacture the bomb to defend our country."

The statement of the opposition deputy gave rise to a diversity of reactions among his fellow party members. Some of them stated that it "was an unfortunate statement," while others praised "his courage and honesty."

ARMY LEADER NOTES MOVES TOWARD POLITICAL REFORM

PY072016Y Aparecida Radio Aparecida in Portuguese 1430 GMT 7 Mar 78 PY

[Text] At a lecture inaugurating this year's activities of the Superior War College, Armed Forces Joint Chief of Staff Gen Tacito Teofilo Gaspar de Oliveira said that the government plans to eliminate exceptional laws which were necessary during a given phase of the revolutionary process and will replace them with safeguards to insure the smooth working of the demoractic regime.

The chief of staff also indicated that Brazil is currently in the process of taking a significant step toward the improvement of its political institutions.

COURT RULES RIGHTS RESTRICTIONS LEGAL

PY090206Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Text] In a decision made today during a plenary session, the Federal Supreme Court ruled constitutional the article of the law governing political parties which establishes that those who had their political rights suspended under institutional acts are not eligible for office. The decision, which was taken by a 6-2 vote, confirms an earlier decision by the Superior Electoral Court. Justice Djaci Falcao reported on the case to the other members of the court.

U.S. SHRIMP FISHING STOPS AS PACT LAPSES

PY022202Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Mar 78 p 24 PY

[Text] As of yesterday Itamaraty had not received any proposal from the U.S. Government to resume negotiations on the new fishing agreement with Brazil, which were interrupted on their second day in February. Therefore, U.S. fishing boats cannot catch shrimp within Brazil's 200-mile territorial waters on the north and northeast coast. The shrimp season begins today.

The new agreement, which is to supersede the one in force until 31 December 1977, demands that Brazilian companies be associated in joint ventures with companies from countries which are interested in catching shrimp in Brazilian territorial waters. Apparently the United States does not go along with this demand.

The members of the U.S. delegation justified the interruption of negotiations by asserting the need to go back to Washington for consultations. So far Itamaraty has not received a request to resume the interrupted negotiations, nor has the United States presented any counterproposal.

The agreement which Brazil started to negotiate with the United States is similar to one which has been negotiated with and accepted by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and also the one practically concluded with the Government of Barbados. According to information given by Itamaraty official sources, the Brazilian Government does not intend to change the general principles of the new agreement it wants to sign with the United States, because it is in keeping with the new general fishing policy Brazil has just adopted.

PRINCE CHARLES ARRIVES ON 8-DAY VISIT

PY082352Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, arrived in Rio de Janeiro today on an 8-day visit to Brazil. At Galeao International Airport, he was met by Governor Faria Lima, Mayor Marcos Tamoyo and British Ambassador Norman Statham.

Prince Charles attended a ceremony held at the national monument built in memory of those who fell in World War II and laid a wreath before the tomb of the unknown soldier.

BRIEFS

IRON AND STEEL EXPORTS--Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Mills Inc will export 100,000 tons of iron and steel products, worth $25 million, to the United States this year. This will be the first time in years that Brazil has exported such a large quantity. The first shipment, consisting of 15,000 tons of steel plate, will leave Rio de Janeiro for Houston, Texas, on 15 May. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 8 Mar 78 p 1 PY]

JAPANESE TECHNICIANS--Tokyo, 8 Mar--Japan will send young technicians to help Brazil in its industrial development as part of a program interrupted 15 years ago, when 300 young Japanese specialists in topography and hydraulic engineering came to Brazil. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0534 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY]

CONTRACT FOR COAL--SIDERBRAS will sign a contract to buy 5 million tons of coal over a 10-year period from the Broken Hill company of Australia. A sum of $250 million, at current prices, will be paid for the coal, whose first shipment will arrive in 1980. [Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 7 Mar 78 PY]

NEVES ELECTED MDB HEAD--Deputy Tancredo Neves was elected as the new MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] leader in the Chamber of Deputies at intraparty elections which lasted until 1600 yesterday. Neves, who is considered a member of the MDB "moderate group," obtained 77 votes and Freitas Nobre, who is a member of the "authentic group," 65 votes. [Text] [Aparecida Radio Aparecida in Portuguese 1430 GMT 3 Mar 78 PY]

NEW SENATOR SWORN IN--Senator Hugo Ramos was sworn in today as the new MDB senator from Rio de Janeiro State, replacing the late Senator Danton Jobim. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY]

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER--The ARENA bloc in the Senate today confirmed Senator Eurico Rezende as ARENA leader during the present legislative period. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY]

OFFICER'S INVOLVEMENT WITH ASSASSINATION DENIED

PY090303Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0245 GMT 9 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile 8 Mar--The Chilean Army tonight denied a U.S. press report that one of its officers was involved in the killing of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier.

The official statement refuted a report published today by the Washington POST that infantry Capt Armando Fernandez Larios was connected with Alejandro Romeral Jara, who, according to a U.S. court, is involved in Letelier's murder.

The communique issued by the army indicates that "it is true that Capt Armando Fernandez Larios is a member of the Chilean Army and it is also true that he is an infantry officer. However, the army has no information about the Foreign Ministry's having issued an official passport to the Captain, either in his own name or some other."

The communique concludes by stating that "nevertheless we are awaiting for further information on the investigation which is being carried out by the special judge appointed to the case."

MEETING OF AMBASSADORS CONCLUDES IN SANTIAGO

PY081905Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] The meeting of Chilean Ambassadors ended today at the Foreign Ministry. The last meeting, which was held from 0900 to 1230, concluded with extensive talks delivered by Foreign Minister Patricio Carvajal and Sergio Diez, Chilean Ambassador to the United Nations.

According to Francisco Bulnes, Chilean Ambassador to Peru, Ambassador Diez discussed the last session of the UN Human Rights Commission held in Geneva. Ambassador Diez had returned to Santiago only a few hours ago.

[Bulnes--begin recording] In general I can point out that the text of the agreements (?drafted) in Geneva about Chile do not agree with the expositions made at the conference. The exposition delivered in Geneva by the U.S. representative and the attitude of other democratic countries were much more understanding toward the Chilean situation than what appears in the adopted resolutions.

I believe that the Chilean cause is improving, that there are countries which act more objectively than before and that there is well-founded hope that the democratic countries in time will change their attitudes toward Chile. [end recording]

In addition Ambassador Bulnes noted, regarding the ambassadors meeting in Santiago, there was an exchange of information and guidelines were established by the Foreign Ministry for their respective posts during this year but that this does not mean that there will be a radical change in Chilean foreign policies.

AFP: JUNTA TO LIFT STATE OF SIEGE

PY091450Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1440 GMT 9 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 9 Mar--It was reported here today that the Chilean military government will lift the stage of siege in force since 1973.

LOPEZ COMMENTS ON ELECTIONS, STATE OF NATION AT PLANT OPENING

PA081507Y Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 5 Mar 78 pp 1-A, 19-A PA

[Article by Hugo Montes Hernandez]

[Text] Villavicencio, 4 Mar--"I have noticed some political propaganda posters which read: A president for a time of difficulty. I can say that I was president during times that were difficult in the opinion of all the economists and sociologists in the world. I was president not during a time that was expected to be difficult, but a time that has been acknowledged as difficult in the past 45 years. Despite the fact that this is not an oil-exporting country and that we changed the pattern of our fuel production, and despite the wave of immorality that U.S. drug users unleashed against us and despite the roller coaster of hikes and slumps in coffee [prices], I am leaving Colombians with a more wholesome economy than the one I received and a more wholesome democracy than the one I received," President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen said in concluding a speech he gave in this city today during the opening of the "parboiled" [in English] (precooked) rice plant of the Colombian Society of Agriculture and Livestock Expansion [Sociedad Colombiana de Expansion Agropecuaria--SOCEAGRO].

President Lopez arrived at 1030 at the landing strip of the military base in Apiay. From there, he went to the "Almacenar" facilities, where he attended a ceremony marking the delivery of the hospital equipment purchased by the El Llano Development foundation which was addressed by Foundation Director Dr Gustavo Tovar and El Meta Governor Dr Hugo Villegas Gomez.

After this ceremony was over, President Lopez, his wife Cecilia Caballero de Lopez and his entourage headed for the "parboiled" rice plant in order to preside over its inauguration. SOCEAGRO executives Mssrs Carlos Alberto Vallejo and Alfonso Vallejo addressed the ceremony. The president spoke next, noting: "I do not think I will frustrate the expectations of the audience if I start with some remarks that come from deep inside. I am very proud to be a Colombian; it is not an ordinary thing to be able to demonstrate on the same day one's civic spirit, trust in the nation and faith in the future as we have done today."

Lopez Michelsen went on to say: "These plans are a special example of what the human will is capable of doing and what can be accomplished with technical means. Since I am a layman in these matters, I want to note two major accomplishments with regard to the application of this know-how to a region such as this. Among all the results of the so-called green revolution, the increased production of crops by selecting seeds and irrigating, none has meant as much to Colombian farming as rice. Through experiments at our own institutes and the dissemination of their results, we have tripled production per hectare. When I was a rice farmer as a young man in the province of Valledupar--so long ago that I would rather not mention the date--we used to produce 2 and 1/2 tons per hectare with great difficulty."

Concerning Puerto Lopez and the Orinoco River, the president remarked: "We want to restore the importance of Puerto Lopez. We want to turn the Orinoco waterway into what it used to be more than a century ago--another cheap transportation route to Bogota. That is why we signed with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez a commitment to dredge jointly first the Arauca and the Muco channel and then all the rivers as far as Meta and Puerto Lopez with our own resources in order to restore to these regions the life that they had in colonial times. Many people do not know that the famous grand pianos that were brought to Bogota, which, according to legendary tales, were carried by the Indians over the route of Honda and Guauduas were in fact brought over the Llano route via the Orinoco River and its tributaries. [paragraph continues]

"Why abandon that route? Why dismiss those possibilities if we have made the commitment to work on the task together with the fraternal nation of Venezuela?"

Then Lopez Michelsen spoke about the marginal national areas, particularly La Guajira, comparing the resources that are being exploited and those that will be exploited in the near future. He said that "before the year 2000, industrial activities will turn that Peninsula (La Guajira) into something comparable to Zulia State and its capital, Maracaibo, when this port--which is just in the planning stage right now--will export coal, liquid natural gas, fertilizers and many other products which will serve as compensation for 100 years of being forgotten, '100 years of solitude' as the novelists put it, and bring 100 years of prosperity, 100 years of meaningfulness and 100 years of importance to this part of Colombia.

The president then mentioned last Sunday's election, noting: "However, if in the fields of material wealth, farming, industry and mining we are on the verge of unforeseen development, what satisfaction it is to have the moral stature, which some contest, of remaining one of the four democracies in America. I said that some of those friends of this region who congratulated me were probably doing so out of political solidarity saying: 'Mr President, you won the elections.' No. I have not won any elections. I expressly noted that I would sit in the grandstands as judge of the bullfight and watch the show. Furthermore, I turned down with crystal clear, unmistakable words a procedure similar to U.S. reelection, [as published] which consists of requesting a vote of confidence in the government with the intention of placing the voters in a predicament by saying: This is a plebiscite and those who want the good things to continue should vote for me; and then recalling unfortunate past experiences by saying: If you want unfortunate things to happen, vote for someone else. No. I did not want to accept the status of a 'plebiscite president' so common in France and other countries. I let the parties and factions face one another without involving the administration in the confrontation. As I said, I had friends in all those groups, and as the election returns are disclosed, it is being confirmed that I could not have divided but united. [sentence as published] I could not have placed the weight of the administration on one side of the balance but had to remain as the fulcrum of the balance. Of course, not in my words, but in the words of one or all of my predecessors, there are always some complaints. There are those who after they win complain of partiality and there are those who after being defeated are thankful because there was no partiality. [sentence as published] The important thing is for this chapter in Colombian life to be remenbered as that of the elections during which there was not a single scratch, injury, or bruise. It should be remembered what I promised not only to my fellow citizens but to the entire hemisphere when Indalecio Lievano Aguirre was chosen to chair the UN Assembly: You will never be sorry for choosing the Colombian representative to represent the entire hemisphere because Colombia will know how to answer to all of America for what it represents as a law-abiding country, an area in which freedoms are honored and an example of tolerance, and this is how it turned out. I have seen the dispatches filed by foreign correspondents and they all, from those who hail from the socialist camp to those who belong to the most extreme rightwing, agree that last Sunday's election reflected the will of the people, the will of a nation, the freedom of the citizenry--which is both free to criticize the government and to back or give a vote of confidence to those who support it.

"However, I repeat that neither then or now has the government been on one side or the other. It is merely an arbiter, the fulcrum of the balance, and it will continue to perform that role until the end of my term."

Finally, the president said that he had had to live through the most difficult period of the past 45 years. "We stopped exporting oil," he said, "to become importers. There was a wave of immorality unleashed by U.S. drug users against us and a roller coaster of coffee [price] hikes and drops. Despite all this, I am leaving Colombians with a more wholesome democracy and economy than I received."

In turn, Mrs Cecilia Caballero de Lopez inaugurated the center for preschool care and inspected the work on the facilities of the neighborhood development center that is being done by the presidency's popular integration office.

State of Seige to Continue

PA061556Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1506 GMT 6 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 6 Mar (EFE)--President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen announced today that the state of siege existing in Colombia since 1974 "will not be lifted during his term," which ends 7 August.

In an exclusive statement to "Radiosucesos RCN," the chief of state noted that the state of siege will not be lifted "because the factors that prompted its implementation still persist."

Lopez Michelsen repeated the explanation that the existing state of siege is not due to political issues, but to the existence of bands of kidnapers and extortionists. Finally, the president issued a stern warning to bands of kidnapers and drug traffickers and said that "his government will be relentless infighting them."

VENEZUELAN DIM OFFICIAL ARRESTED, CHARGED WITH SPYING

PAC90238Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Colombian security officials arrested a Venezuelan Office of Military Intelligence [DIM] official. He is charged with espionage.

The agent arrested by the Colombian Administrative Department of Security [DAS] is 36-year-old Juan Jose Gonzalez, a bodyguard of Energy and Mines Minister Valentin Hernandez. According to newspaper reports from Maracaibo, Juan Gonzalez had gone shopping in Maicao, where he was arrested for yet undisclosed reasons and taken to Bogota for questioning.

MINISTER ANNOUNCES 7-PERCENT SALARY INCREASE

PY030052Y Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Summarizing the speech which Economy and Finance Minister Valentin Arismendi has just delivered to the nation on radio and television network, we can note that the minister announced a 7-percent salary increase which will be retroactive to 1 March. This salary increase will affect the private and public sector.

The minimum national salary was established at 420 Uruguayan pesos. In the public sector this increase was divided into 6 percent for natural growth and 1 percent for corrective readjustment.

We must also note that the economy minister stated that the main concern of the government is the worker's purchasing power and that, therefore, it is enforcing a short range salary increase policy.

The minister added: We hope that by enforcing this short-range salary increase policy businessmen will not raise their prices. Everything the government is doing to improve the economy is intended to benefit the workingman.

DELEGATION HEADS FOR LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE

PY071816Y Montevideo Cadena de Oro Del Interior in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] A Uruguayan delegation headed by Ambassador Julio Cesar Lupinacci will travel to Geneva in the next few days to attend the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea.

[Lupinacci--begin recording] Like many other countries, Uruguay has important interests committed to this negotiation, particularly with regard to the so-called exclusive economic zone, which is a new principle born of these negotiations. It can be said that this principle has already been adopted by international law in view of many countries which unilaterally have established the 200-mile zone.

In reality, our country, along with other Latin American countries, had previously recognized the situation when it established the 200-mile limit in 1969, but with a dual system: the traditional 12-mile zone and the zone between 12 and 200 miles in which the country has sovereignty over economic and other activities but recognizes freedom of navigation and overflight. [end recording]

BRIEFS

FOREIGN MINISTRY VISIT--Deputy Foreign Minister (Enrique Delpasse) will leave this afternoon for Cairo to attend an industrial fair at which Uruguay will have an exhibit of products. He will then travel to Zurich, Vienna, Bonn and London to meet with Uruguayan diplomats stationed in these cities. [Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Mar 78 PY]

ROEL GETS PROMISE OF ACTION BY VANCE ON BLOCKADES

FL082155Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2125 GMT 8 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Mar (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Hostilities on the North American-Mexican border could spread if the blockade against Mexican produce continues, Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel has told his U.S. counterpart Cyrus Vance during a telephone conversation. Vance said he would personally intervene to put an end to the blockade.

The Mexican foreign secretary pointed out that the North American farmers had acted illegally and without justification, "which goes counter to the excellent relations existing between the governments of the two countries." Roel demanded Vance's immediate intervention to put an end to the hostilities on the border, which threaten to spread to other areas to the detriment of Mexico. The Mexican foreign secretary voiced his belief that the action is aimed at creating problems to divide the two nations.

PEASANTS SEIZE AGRARIAN REFORM OFFICES

PA081302Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0258 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Sinaloa, Mexico, 7 Mar (EFE)--Some 1,000 Mexican peasants today occupied by force the local offices of the Agrarian Reform Secretariat (ministry) and kidnaped two officials.

According to the Culiacan authorities, the peasants are demanding a solution to the Sinaloa State agrarian problems and a distribution of the available land in the region. The peasants, members of the Culiacan Valley Peasants and Workers Federation, occupied the offices and seized regional delegate Esteban Angel Ceraon and his secretary, Antonio Beltran. Isaias Bravo Rangel, leader of the labor-peasant federation affiliated with the Popular Socialist Party, said that the peasants "are tired of the Agrarian Reform Secretariat's false promises." He also warned that other peasant groups from various parts of the state will arrive today and tomorrow to join the ones occupying the offices. After saying that the peasants will vacate the offices and release the officials when their demands are heard, Rangel said that similar movements will be carried out in the states of Coahuila, Veracruz and Michoacan. Culiacan, in Sinaloa State, is some 1,200 km northeast of Mexico City.

TORRIJOS SPEAKS ON U.S. SENATE CANAL DEBATE

PA082342Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2139 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Speech by Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos at ceremony commemorating International Women's Day at Justo Arosemena Legislative Palace, Panama City--live]

[Text] Let me know if you cannot hear me. Let me know if you cannot hear me. Nobody is more pleased than I am to receive this tribute that is tender as a women's soul and courageous as the hearts of the men that they have begotten. On this day that the entire world at the United Nations devotes to the honor of women, I bow before Panamanian women in the respectful and solemn attitude of a patriot.

This militant, resolute demonstration by a group of our society that has always been known for not permitting conditions to be imposed on it and for laying down its life rather than having humiliating conditions imposed on it is the greatest honor that can be given to a government leader after 9 years in power. I am pleased that the country is experiencing times during which every day is a historic day. [apparently pointing to the sky] That is a Canal Zone helicopter. Soon you will not see it flying around anymore. [shouts from the crowd: "Long live General Torrijos"] You will soon not see it [the crowd: "We have heard you"] They continue flying. They are still trying to threaten because they are the ones who have really been threatened. Now they are overflying. Before, they used to open fire. They are overflying now because they have become convinced that there is no projectile that can destroy a people's beliefs. Since they cannot be present here because they could run into trouble with the colonial authorities, let us at least permit them to enjoy a militant and patriotic rally from 3,000 feet overhead. They can continue to overfly. [applause]

I was saying that it is very important to hold a ceremony of support on the day that mankind has set apart for all men to bow down in a deferential and patriotic attitude of respect before you. It is important that this rally be held today because we are living 60 seconds of history every minute and because we chose the route of the achievement of truth, the achievement of dignity through what mothers primarily wanted: not to pay a high price for the liberation of this country. And we chose that precisely because we did not want our people to shed their blood, not because they were not willing to shed it, but because this generation could be charged with being the one that together with its leader did not review or study all opportunities for peaceful negotiation.

You can listen every day, with the attention of people who have great interest in the future of their country, to the broadcasts of the congressional debates. Right now I liken that to a big trial jury in which 100 men, many of them dignified and others confused, are charting out the future of a nation. So far I have no doubt that our future [changes thought], that through the ratification the props of the colonialist enclave will be blown over like matches under a strong wind.

I thank you for this honor precisely because history says that every man, every leader who wants to change the structures runs the risk of having his own structure broken. When I speak of having his structure broken, do not just think of physical extermination, because they have tried to do this and have not succeeded. Let us also think about other kinds of extermination which become deeply rooted in the consciences of those who are not convinced that this is a liberation cause and also become deeply rooted in the consciences of those who live not to fight for [as heard] imperialism but to kneel down before it.

I say this because a smear campaign has begun against this people in the person of General Torrijos. This does not mean much because this is not the first time that it has happened and it will not be the last slander to be uttered as long as our people are dedicated to eradicating the enclave and as long as this people remains willing to make every kind of sacrifice so that their territory, their natural resources, their rivers, their men and women can circulate from one side to the other without the hindrance or the presence of foreign troops, which for 70 years have not been able to intimidate us. If they have not been able to intimidate us in 70 years, we can wait for these days to go by calmly, supporting the responsible views of many senators because, as Mrs Humphrey said, a time will come when we both can coexist, when those who live there and those who live here can coexist--as we all live. A time will come when a single flag [changes thought] and when Panamanians will not have to witness the presence of troops that they have not invited, a presence that is justified only because this is a weak nation. And when a presence is justified because a country is weak, such a presence is based on force [presencias prepotentes].

The mistake of people here who lack understanding--which is the same as the mistake of people over there who lack understanding--does not give us justification to choose another path and thus not permit several, no, many, very many senators, who feel deeply ashamed because their country maintains a colonial enclave this late in the 20th century, from thinking things over. These are all provocations to make us lose our patience. These are all the same provocations that throughout history they have conducted against leaders who wanted to gain independence for their country and who have gained it. All these are provocations to make it seem that we are provoking and jeopardizing the transit of all merchant marines of the world, transit by ships which carry the flags of countries that are currently supporting us in a militant attitude.

They will continue fomenting viciousness. They will continue to insult the dignity of those who do not want to kneel before the predominant forces. You will continue to hear things that hurt and humiliate the deepest feelings of a good Panamanian. We will continue to listen and we will wait for the result of that big vote. Like the voting of a trial jury, these ballots always let the truth shine forth and let the truth be known publicly. No viciousness can withstand an investigation. No slander can withstand an investigation. No base lie can withstand an investigation. This is so because the course of the people's liberation struggle has proven this. Therefore, let us remain alert. Part of maintaining our alertness is not to let ourselves be provoked by those who want that deliberation of many men with a high degree of awareness to be interrupted by street fighting. The represent those who in the past ordered the Guardsmen against the people and always stayed in power to exploit those who persecuted and those who were persecuted. [shouts of "Long live General Torrijos, hail the revolutionary process, hail the Panamanian women"]

All warm homages and all homages to a leader show that leader that he has not worked in vain. When that homage comes from mothers or potential mothers it has a double, triple or greater meaning. That is why on the day that commemorates you, I come to tell you again the truth that I have stated throughout 9 years of daily contacts and 9 years of having carried out a dialog between leader and fellow citizens. I come to tell you to continue to have faith. I would rather die than fail you. I would rather die than defraud you. However, if someday the lack of understanding of those who have to eradicate this colonial enclave deny us the right to be free, then that day I want again to meet with you so that we can decide on the operation plans and to discuss what other resources we will resort to. [applause, shouts of "One single territory, one single flag, long live General Torrijos, hail the revolutionary process, hail the Panamanian women"]

I want to ask you a question; I want to ask you something. Certain sectors--some who think well, some who think honestly, some who think selfishly, some who support change as long as they carry it out personally--doubt or have wanted to cast doubt on our system of political participation, saying that it is the result of General Torrijos' whims. I myself even began to have doubts. But from the degree of participation shown at the opening of the electoral process, I realize that you are still not ready to participate through intermediaries. I get the impression that for the time being you do not have the least desire--and I want you to tell me--of participating through mechanisms of intermediation. There are many men who want to do something for their neighborhood, who want to be one of the 505 representatives who make up the political geography and the geography of this country's dignity. The degree of participation is so high that I believe that it will take us some time to have you accept and permit intermediaries of the past--do not think that they will be the intermediaries of the past but another type of intermediation. [sentence as heard]

I am very satisfied. I am very pleased at the enthusiastic and militant way that people have responded to the established mechanisms of participation. I ask for the largest number of the electorate to vote on 6 August. I ask that on 6 August you elect the men who can best represent the interests of their corregimiento and community because if a leader, a representative, badly represents the interests of his community, he can betray the interests of his country. Elect well, elect well because you are a politically aware and politically mature people. [shouts of "Down with the politicking parties, long live popular power"] Elect well and turn these elections [people continue to shout and Torrijos asks them to be quiet] Elect well, elect with great militancy and participation. And let us make the 6 August elections an example of civic spirit that will shake the conscience of the world and the lack of conscience of those who say that these people have a desire to be sheep.

In conclusion, have trust in General Torrijos. Tell your children, your brothers, that General Torrijos will leave them an integrated fatherland, a free fatherland, a fatherland in which the strong man, the strong rifle, the strong cannon do not humiliate a weak people. I ask you to return to your homes with that civic peace you have always maintained and that we wait for the results because I have faith that in that great event of conscience which is currently taking place in the U.S. Senate, the conscience of those who believe in the dignity of peoples will overcome by a majority the lack of conscience of those who believe in the submission of peoples. Thank you very much.

ELECTORAL PROCESS FOR 6 AUG ELECTIONS BEGINS

PA070240Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 6 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The national electoral process began today with the registration of precandidates at the district registration offices in the different provinces for the 6 August elections of the 505 corregimiento representatives. In addition, the elections tribunal issued a notice which says that any citizen who wants to make charges of irregularities in the electoral process must go to the elections supervisor's office located at 37th Street and Via Espana in Panama City.

Regarding the obligation of mayors and corregidores [heads of corregimientos] to comply with the rules set forth in the elections law, the office of the elections supervisor announced that the offices of the mayors and corregidores must issue residence certificates to the precandidates. If they fail to comply with this ruling, they will be punished with imprisonment for from 1 to 12 months and will not be able to hold public office for up to 3 years, as established in the elections law.

GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO ALLOW BEEF PRICE HIKE

Butchers Protest

PA071714Y Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1220 GMT 7 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Excerpt] The national government will not allow increases in meat prices even though it admits that no price increases have been authorized for the cattle industry in the last 4 years despite increased production costs. Agricultural Development Minister Lt Col Ruben Dario Paredes said that the price to consumers will not be increased because this is not the right time to grant ranchers an incentive to compensate for increases in production costs.

Meanwhile, butchers leader Plinio Canto Jimenez announced last night that butchers have agreed to call a strike until the situation is resolved. He said slaughterhouses are offering quartered meat at 56 cents a pound, which is 8 cents higher than the official price fixed by the price regulatory office.

Government Stands Firm

PA081752Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 8 Mar 78 p 1 PA

[Text] The national government has maintained a firm stand regarding the irresponsible attitude assumed by the butchers, who for the past 48 hours have prevented consumers from buying any beef. Regarding this, it was learned yesterday evening that the production organizations have been examining the possibility of broadening and expanding the state's participation in certain marketing mechanisms. Beef would then receive special treatment at the national slaughterhouse and at certain private processing companies which are in the position to provide immediate solutions to the problem.

Asked by this newspaper, Agricultural Development Minister Lt Col Ruben Dario Paredes reiterated that for the time being the price of meat to consumers would not be raised, as consumers could not withstand and would not accept another price increase. Besides, he pointed out, this is not the right time for this type of increase.

This newspaper also surveyed broad public opinion sectors and the general consensus is that butchers, who do not risk anything in this type of business, are creating a climate of tension and acting in an intransigent and insolent fashion.

It is expected that certain constructive steps aimed at overcoming the impasse created by the butchers will be taken today.

Government Seizes Beef Marketing

PA090435Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Official sources of the Ministry of Agricultural Development told this station this afternnon that the government has taken over control of beef marketing through the national slaughterhouse. This measure will be carried out in cooperation with private firms involved in the production and marketing of beef which will guarantee the flow of cattle to the national slaughterhouse.

COSTA RICA

MINISTER DENIES RELATIONS TO BE RESUMED WITH CUBA

PA081200V Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0312 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] San Jose, 7 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Costa Rican Foreign Minister Gonzalo J. Facio has denied news reports that predicted eventual resumption of diplomatic relations between Costa Rica and Cuba before his term as minister ends on 8 May. The seasoned diplomat said that the current administration will not change the existing situation in which relations are limited to trade with consulates operating in San Jose and Havana.

Facio's remarks, made after a cabinet session with President Daniel Oduber tonight, remove all speculation in this respect and postpone for several years the resumption of diplomatic relations, which ended in 1961.

COFFEE PRODUCTION TO INCREASE in 1978

PA081903V San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1720 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[CERCANO Network]

[Text] Costa Rica will produce 1.8 million quintals of coffee this year. Industry Minister Rodolfo Quiros Gonzalez said that the coffee harvest this year will be somewhat greater than last year's.

This is not the case in other Central American countries, which will produce less coffee than in previous years, according to the minister.

EL SALVADOR

NATIONAL CONCILIATION PARTY ENDS ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

PA090338V Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2003 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Today, the ruling National Conciliation Party (PCN) will close its political campaign for the 12 March elections for deputies and mayors with a celebration.

The PCN, whose only opponent will be the minority Salvadoran Popular Party (PPS), did not make as strong and aggressive a campaign as in the past. This is perhaps the result of the absence of the traditional opposition political parties now grouped under the National Opposition Union (UNO). At the end of 1977, the UNO announced that it would not participate in the March elections because there were no guarantees of an honest election.

The PPS registered at the last minute amid protests from politicians of various orientations, who said that the Central Electoral Council (CCE), El Salvador's top electoral authority, should have barred the PPS because this party had not participated in popular elections for 5 years, and thus it had violated the laws on elections.

The PPS does not have the popular support needed to make it a powerful opponent. Therefore, the government party is practically assured of electing deputies to the 14 departments and winning the 261 mayoralties.

Certain Salvadoran political circles are sure that the PPS will obtain at most one seat in the Legislative Assembly, which will undergo a complete change on 1 June. The assembly is made up of 54 deputies with their respective

Undoubtedly, the PCN will win a sweeping victory and obtain a majority in all municipalities. The San Salvador mayoralty is already assured, since there is no opposition.

In fact, this year's campaign should have begun on 2 January. The law states that campaigns for deputies can start 2 months, and for mayors 1 month, prior to the elections. However the campaign started only a couple of weeks ago, at least publicly.

Of the 1.7 million voters registered in the electoral lists, 60 percent are expected to vote in spite of the prevailing atmosphere of apathy. There is an absence of the enthusiasm of previous elections, and everything goes on as if there was no electoral campaign.

The Security Corps has announced that on election day a special control will be maintained over the more than 3,600 voting precincts.

CCE officials have announced that elections will be completely free and that this freedom will be maintained because they want the people to express their free choice.

San Salvador residents are more concerned over the wave of fires that threatens thousands of small and medium businessmen than over the 12 March elections, in which PCN victory is assured. Over 15 large fires have taken place since 25 December, causing losses estimated at over $12 million and putting over 70 merchants out of business.

GUATEMALA

CLOSE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CREATES TENSION, COUP RUMORS

Lucas Leads in Recount

PA081909Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1901 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia of the Revolutionary Party (PR) and Democratic Institutional Party (PID) coalition is leading in the new official recount of the votes cast in the presidential elections held in Guatemala on Sunday.

The Electoral Council announced that Gen Lucas Garcia, a centrist, this afternoon had 173,237 votes. The anticommunist candidate, Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia of the National Liberation Movement (MLN), is in second place with 168,068 votes. In third place is the candidate of the opposing Christian Democratic Party (PDC), Gen Ricardo Peralta Mendez, with 124,053 votes.

Parties Trade Accusations

PA090015Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2224 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan political parties are accusing one another of plotting a coup. They say this in order to lend substance to the election frauds of which they have been accusing one another since last Sunday's elections.

Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz, Democratic Institutional Party [PID] general director and government minister, accused the anticommunist National Liberation Movement [MIN] of responsibility for fraud and for plotting, or creating conditions for disrupting the institutional order.

Col Peralta Azurdia, Donaldo Alvarez said, "carried out a coup d'etat before and is now preparing another one."

Mario Sandoval Alarcon, MLN director general and vice president of the republic, accuses the PID of plotting a coup d'etat. These accusations, at least as far as the MLN is concerned, include charges that "the army has to some extent already taken a stand."

According to Vice President Sandoval Alarcon and party public relations director Rudy Fuentes Sandoval, it was the army which kidnaped Antonio Najera Saravia, anticommunist candidate for deputy for Alta Verapaz (in the northern part of the country).

It was explained that the candidate, along with the electoral register delegate, was captured by members of the Verapaz military base troops and held incommunicado. So far, the army has not replied to this accusation, but a communique is expected at any moment.

The fear of a coup d'etat by the armed forces, on the other hand, is not new to the people who expected it to take place yesterday when the electoral tally entered into one of its most crucial stages and everything that had been done before had to be nullified. Even today, a new vote tally was rejected by the MLN, which has been left in second place with only a few hundred votes left to be counted.

The existing confusion is reflected in the differences between official figures and those obtained by the individual parties. While the electoral Council puts Lucas Garcia ahead with 183,237 votes, the MLN says that the winner is Peralta Azurdia with 176,894 votes; and the Broad Front disagrees with Lucas Garcia's lead and gives him only 177,932 vots.

Lucas Accuses MLN of 'Fascist' Methods

PA0913l4Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1215 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--General Romeo Lucas Garcia, presidential candidate of the Broad Front, a coalition of centrist parties, today accused his closest rival, the National Liberation Movement [MLN], of "using fascist techniques to achieve power by means of intimidation and distortion of reality."

At a news conference held in the late afternoon, the presidential candidate expressed confidence that the electoral registry will recognize his victory, "but we will only celebrate his victory at the completion of the vote count, which will confirm the results which are now available to the coalition parties.

On another subject, Lucas Garcia said that his government will permit the registration of new political parties "as long as they meet the requirements set by the electoral law and do not run contrary to the constitution." This was clear reference to the Communist Party, which is banned by law.

In closing, Lucas Garcia said that "it is not true that the ballot boxes were burned in Alta Verapaz," the province where he was born, "because these boxes are under close supervision to forestall fraudulent actions by the MLN."

Laugerud Denies Coup Possibility

PA090210Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0158 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan President Gen Kjell Laugerud Garcia today said that there will be no coup d'etat in this country because of the uncertain results of Sunday's presidential elections.

"I am the army commander general, and the army is loyal to me. The army will not violate the country's institutional order. I will turn over the presidency on 1 July as established by the constitution," the president said.

In Guatemala City, there have been rumors about an impending coup d'etat because both centrist candidate Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia and anticommunist candidate Col Enrique Peralta Mendez claim to be winners in Sunday's presidential elections. Laugerud Garcia said that the members of the Electoral Council, who know the results of the vote, have had their lives threatened. Therefore, they are being given the required protection.

Laugerud Asks Media Help

PA091403Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] During a news conference held yesterday evening, President Laugerud Garcia appealed to the news media to help alleviate the climate of tension that had followed the elections.

Referring to the claims of victory by all the candidates who participated in the recent elections, General Laugerud said that no one can call himself president-elect or vice president-elect, since only congress has the power to decide that and to make such a statement. Regarding the alleged fraud charges, the president said that no one can claim such a thing because there is no evidence to prove the charges. Laugerud said that on 1 June he will surrender power to the winner of the presidential election.

The election results will be known either Friday or Saturday, the Guatemalan president said. He strongly warned gossip and [word indistinct], noting that if they break the law the police will be there.

The Electoral Council, meanwhile, is tirelessly working on a new vote count and issuing bulletins periodically to keep the people informed of Sunday's election results.

HONDURAS

SULA TIEMPO SCORES GOVERNMENT-MILITARY CORRUPTION

PA071727Y San Pedro SULA TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Mar 78 p 6 PA

[Editorial: "Armed Forces and Institutionalism"]

[Text] The break in constitutional order in December 1972 was not rejected by most Hondurans because the government had lost moral support and its fall raised hopes of social change and reform.

Some steps were taken in that direction. Some institutions were established to promote development. The armed forces placed themselves equidistant from all traditional parties, because these were viewed as being linked to traditional institutionalism and therefore opposed to social and political change.

This means that one can take two positions regarding institutionalism: one in support of maintaining institutions of underdevelopment and the other in support of institutional renewal. The armed forces assumed the responsibility of modernizing the country. That responsibility involves the commitment of ruling better than the traditional parties. The national development plan defined the goals which were to be sought by the administrative policy.

Naturally, the opposition refused to accept this and immediately went on theoffensive.

We have all seen the results of this offensive.

The government--the armed forces--began to accomodiate the opposition's demands and there was a retreat from the previously progressive position. Corruption was responsible for the rest.

Armed forces leaders have shown they lost their ideals of social, economic and political change. Now they avidly seek administrative posts as well as a monopoly over decisionmaking.

This policy, which is totally different from the intentions stated in the 4 December 1972 proclamation, has turned battalion chiefs into the owners and masters of institutions such as the municipality and others which generate complementary revenue.

The army is losing the opportunity to carry out a renewal and instead has undertaken to undermine all the institutions which could have been improved, including that of the armed forces.

Some military chiefs of the more economically important districts, with almost total power, have made contacts with regional economic leaders and politicians. From this vantage point, they have proceeded to manipulate courts of justice, municipalities, labor unions and to appoint and dismiss employees at will in such sectors as education and agriculture as well as municipalities.

Civilian government employees who refuse to submit to this arbitrariness, to this abuse of military power, are removed from their posts.

After eliminating labor rights and the authority of judges, after making smuggling an accepted activity, officers now are after independent government agencies to get rich as fast as possible because these are outside the civil service law.

All this is happening because, when the reforming impulse was lost, it could have been replaced only by another which destroys rather than improves institutions.

Armed forces leaders do not seem to want to understand that in distorting the function of government their armed institution is undermined and that every bond it had with the people who gave the military government their sincere support in hopes of a new life is wiped out.

This is no way for the people and army partnership to be carried out.

MILIAN SPEECH MARKS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

FL090243Y Havana Domestic Radio/Television Service in Spanish 0137 GMT 9 Mar 78 FL

[Speech by PCC Politburo member [illegible] Castro at main commemorative event marking International Women's Day held at Karl Marx Theater, Havana--live]

[Text] Comrade Vilma Espin, member of the Central Committee and president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC]; comrades on the presidium; comrades guests; dear FMC members:

Once more we meet to commemorate International Women's Day, a date of solidarity with all women of the world and an occasion in which we express our admiration and respect for Cuban women as worthy bearers of the beautiful traditions of struggle of our people and untiring builders of socialism. This 8 March comes in a year of noteworthy significance for our fatherland since activities will be conducted in preparation for the 11th World Youth and Student Festival, which will be held in our country and for which all Cuban people, and especially the women, are devoting their best efforts to make this youth event a new and important success of the revolution and socialism. This commemoration also is especially significant because it practically coincides with the historical date of the protest of Baragua centennial and because it comes in the year in which we will commemorate, with the most worthy tribute, the 25th anniversary of the assault on Moncada barracks. [applause]

Almost five decades already have passed since International Women's Day was first commemorated in our fatherland. Today, amid this development phase of the revolution, we can assert with legitimate satisfaction that we have gone through an important period in the struggle for achieving genuine equality of women and that we will continue working untiringly for that momentous objective.

Our party, following the guidance and ideas of Comrade Fidel, is giving and always will give its greatest support to this revolutionary task. It supports and always will support the fruitful work of the FMC. It is and always will be a firm standardbearer of the rights, just aspirations and revolutionary objectives of the women of our fatherland.

We do so, in the first place, because this is a problem of principles for our communist ideology. Marx and Engels taught us to understand scientifically the status of women in a society divided into classes. The genius Lenin taught us that socialism cannot be fully triumphant without the complete liberation of women. Clara Zetkin showed us the need to provide women with their own mass organization which expresses their interests and works for their rights. We communists must always carry this historic legacy high.

In the second place, we do so because it is a case of a right which Cuban women have earned heroically ever since our people took their first steps in the hard and difficult road toward independence and the revolution. Cuban women are not the object but the active subject of their own emancipation. Ever since the times of Yara and Baire, Cuban women have been passing hand to hand the banner of their won dignity and their own role in history, along with the flags of the fatherland's liberty and sovereignty. That banner from the hands of Mariana Grajales and Ana Betancourt passed to the hands of our first militant and revolutionary women communists of the pseudorepublic, and from them to the heroines of Moncada and the Sierra, to women like Lidya Doce and Clodomira Ferrar and--following the extraordinary victory of 1 January--to the firm hands of the millions of women who today throughout the country, in work, defense and study, are finally making the dreams of a truly equal, fraternal, just and humane society a reality with their building of socialism.

We know that the road is still a long one and that we still have a long way to go. We know that this effort depends not only on the will and tenacity of revolutionaries but also on the material transformation work we are doing amid the innumerable limitations which our status of a poor and underdeveloped country imposes on us. We also know that it is not easy to eradicate in a few years the prejudices which have accumulated over centuries. But we are facing this battle with optimism, with confidence and with certainty that our cause is just and will be triumphant. This feeling is reinforced among us each time, like today, we can confirm the revolutionary energy, enthusiasm and strength of our women's movement which, with good reason, Fidel has described as a revolution within the revolution. We are likewise reinforced in this conviction by the eloquent contrast we find when comparing the status reached by Cuban women in society and the home with the situation of those who two decades ago were their similarly discriminated, exploited and oppressed comrades--the women of Latin America. Our optimism is likewise reinforced by the confirmation--in the experience of the world's first socialist state, the Soviet Union, which undertook the proletarian revolution much earlier than we did--that only socialism makes the real liberation of women possible, only it opens for them the most extraordinary development opportunities and shows that the solution to the women's problem is not only a possibility but also a law of socialism, a law of the new society.

Comrades, as Fidel said at the Second FMC Congress, the revolution today has an impressive political force in Cuban women, and that active and decisive political force contributes tenaciously toward the development of our revolutionary process. The bases of the FMC were established at the Second FMC Congress to develop more intensive work so that our party, our state and all the productive apparatus could be enhanced by the revolutionary force which Cuban women have demonstrated they possess.

The need for men and women to share the country's economic and political management responsibilities at all levels was analyzed during the First PCC Congress as part of the struggle for the full equality of women and based on an adequate promotion policy in all political and administrative organizations. Let us not say that these objectives have been fully attained, since we still have work ahead in this regard. However, today we can assert with satisfaction that the policy developed toward achieving these objectives has begun to bear results and that these will magnify.

The agreements of the Second FMC Congress, the theses and resolutions of the First PCC Congress, the constitution and the family code of laws have become efficient tools for the development of the masses' consciousness. Presently, the revolutionary strength of the Cuban women in productive tasks is enormous. The great efforts of the FMC-National Association of Small Farmers Brigades in support of the sugar harvest, in picking fruit, vegetables and tubers and, especially, the support given by FMC members to the tobacco harvest have been clearly demonstrated.

At each work or service center, at each work post, the women have selflessly fulfilled their daily commitment to the society that they help to build. The most difficult and humane tasks sponsored by the revolution--education, health, work at child care centers--find in them frontline soldiers. The FMC represented the militancy of Cuban women throughtout these years of revolution. It has been the flagbearer of their internationalist and anti-imperialist principles and has participated in the most just and humane causes of the world. Our FMC has supported the most progressive women's movements on a worldwide level and is an active member of the prestigious Women's International Democratic Federation, whose regional center was recently inaugurated in our country.

Since 1975, the international women's year, the FMC has been developing a broad plan of activities throughout the world and has actively participated in numerous events held in various parts of the world. During these years of revolution the presence of Cuban women in the international arena has not been limited to their active participation in seminars, congresses and conferences; our people's internationalist principles have found in the women determined militants, capable of heeding the call of fraternal African, Asian and Latin American peoples and making their presence known as health workers, builders or combatants.

Today our women's organization has more than 2 million comrades as members. This is 81.5 percent of the female population aged 14 to 65. At the same time, with its large membership and massive force, the FMC has been strengthened extraordinarily in the organizational aspect, in its efficiency and in its readiness to fulfill any task. In reality our party and people can feel proud of you, of the degree of political maturity attained in recent years, and not only proud but confident in that we can count on your unconditional participation in the tasks undertaken by the revolution.

Today our country is advancing and developing. Our people confront difficulties and overcome them in response to the call of the party and Fidel. Despite the difficulties caused by the difficult international economic situation which we had to face, our gross social product grew in 1977, demonstrating once more the superiority of the socialist society over the capital society. The savings ordered, the adjustments of our plans, the austerity and maximum efficiency made it possible for us to continue to advance in economic and social development without affecting the levels of essential consumption of our population.

This year the country's gross social product will experience a remarkable growth which requires the most tenacious and arduous effort of our working people. This year's plan of economic and social development includes allocations and resources that our socialist state assigns to the construction of schools of different levels, hospitals, polyclinics, homes for the aged and the handicapped, which will result in educational development and in raising the quality of medical services. Together with this, child care centers will be built, increasing by 27 percent the number of children receiving attention in these institutions, which will provide better conditions for the working women in our country.

Nearly 120,000 jobs will be created in 1978 and a large number of them will be assigned to women. These successes and the great objectives we seek this year force us to develop increasingly efficient work, confronting with determination and firmness the difficulties that might arise in our path. Right now the sugar harvest, our main and decisive economic activity on which the fundamental resources needed for all those projects awaited by the women, the children and all the people depend, is seriously delayed due to the unusual rain of recent months and other problems of an organizational nature. Comrade Fidel has called on all to make an extraordinary, truly heroic effort during the next 100 days in order to overcome this setback and guarantee the fulfillment of the sugar production plan outlined for the current year. Cuban women must play an important role in this battle.

There are many very efficient ways in which they can help to the success of the harvest, and we know they will do everything possible with the same combativeness and determination of our internationalists to make a reality the success of this effort in which we must not fail. We believe that on a day like today, on a revolutionary date such as 8 March, nothing could be more honorable and glorious in our women's tradition of struggle than to say to Fidel and the party: We will fulfill our duty and not rest during these 100 days until the last ton of sugar on the harvest has been produced by our sugar mills. [applause]

Dear comrades, as Fidel has said, in order to attain the full integration of women into the social, economic and political life of the country, women and men must struggle together. They have to be fully and profoundly aware of the problem, both men and women, and together they must wage this battle. A few years ago we were calling on the men to join the tasks and responsibilities of the home and family along with their wives. Today we must say that progress has been made in this aspect and that the development of a new consciousness, in both men and women, is bearing fruit and making headway.

Ideological work must therefore continue to occupy an important place in the life of the FMC. It must be continued and deepened more and more as an essential means to erase the last vestiges of subjective residues that check the full liberation of women. Today a vast field has been opened for women's activities in numerous jobs, both intellectual and manual. Presently 28.6 percent of the country's labor force are women. In coming years material conditions will be created to raise that percentage still further. In order to attain this, today's task is to struggle for guaranteeing the training and qualification of housewives and unmarried young women who do not study or work in order to achieve their future incorporation into work.

Education is a key factor to which we must continue to devote maximum attention. In the sphere of education the FMC has developed a sustained effort in recent years. More than 76,000 housewives have graduated from sixth grade and, according to the statistics of the recently started 6-month term, nearly 70,000 comrades are registered in adult education. The revolution has afforded real possibilities to all women so that they can develop their capabilities and desires. The day will come when our physicians, technicians and engineers will be proportionate in terms of sex.

There are already some examples of what can be achieved. Who would have said just a few years ago that our country would have women innovators and inventors? Well, we can say today that we are proud of having more than 1,000 women in the ranks of the National Association of Innovators and Inventors as part of all our creative people who day after day, with their initiatives, help to win the battle for economic efficiency. Thanks to the work of these comrades, together with the other members of the organization, last year we were able to save more than 15 million pesos in national and foreign currency.

Comrades FMC members, recently the women's organization concluded the process of assembly meetings aimed at strengthening and consolidating the grassroots organizations and intermediate-level units. This process, which was characterized by significant, quality work, will result in superior work and will allow the organization to move forward the tasks of the FMC and undertake all others that the party, government and state may assign to it. The FMC, as a result of its territorial characteristic as well as the contents of its specific work, should continue to strengthen ties with and offer support in certain tasks and responsibilities to the people's government organs, making every effort possible to use the most adequate forms of cooperation and correlation between them and the directorates of the people's government at different levels.

For several reasons, we have ahead of us a year of intense work. We have talked about the harvest tasks. We must also mention the efforts that are being made and will have to be made with respect to the 11th [World Youth and Students] Festival. It must be said that the FMC has conducted a broad effort in the ongoing special emulation in honor of the festival, attaining an economic goal amounting to more than 3 million pesos and carrying out positive political and ideological work among the country's women's masses. In the coming months this effort must be redoubled in order to make our fatherland a worthy host of the great meeting of the world's progressive youth.

We must continue systematic work in order to consolidate and strengthen the leadership organizations recently established. We must continue the struggle to broaden the influence of the FMC's ideological work in order to reach and mobilize all women and, especially, the housewives. We must continue work to strengthen more and more relations with the world's progressive women organizations, making the Cuban women's internationalist voice strongly heard in African, Latin American and Asian countries and making increasingly stronger and more irrevocable the friendship and cooperation between our women's organization and those of the Soviet Union and other socialist and revolutionary countries to which we are united.

As an expression of that consciousness which Marxism-Leninism and socialism have given to the Cuban women and people, let us send today on this day of international solidarity our message of encouragement and militant support to the women who, in Chile, Uruguay, Nicaragua, Paraguay and other countries of this continent, are daily fighting against infamy, injustice, oppression and exploitation of the fascist and imperialist enemy. [applause] Let us send our revolutionary, internationalist and anti-imperialist message to the women of the heroic and combative Angola who are working and struggling to create the foundation to advance toward socialism. [applause] Let us send our message of solidarity to the women of Ethiopia who also are fighting against the reactionary aggression and plot and for whom the revolution is opening the horizons of a new life. [applause]

In a very special manner, we wish to convey the love and respect of our people to the members of the women's organizations of socialist countries and, especially, the women of the glorious and fraternal Soviet Union. [applause] Our greetings to the comrades who, in Vietnam, today are rebuilding with tenacity, heroism and courage the liberated fatherland. [applause] Our greetings to the women's masses who, in Guinea, Benin, Mozambique, Guinnea-Bissau, Algeria and other friendly countries, are determined to build a juster society and those who, in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, are confronting apartheid and imperialist exploitation. [applause]

To the Cuban women who have taken anywhere in the world the fullest expression of our proletarian and socialist internationalism, we send our greetings. [applause] To those who, as worthy heirs of the example set by Marinana Grajales, have given to the fatherland their precious sons who made possible today's freedom, we convey our most profound respect and gratitude. [applause] To you, mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of our glorious internationalists, to you who carry the burden of the absence of loved ones with legitimate revolutionary pride, aware of the sacrifice demanded by our internationalist and anti-imperialist principles, to you who represent the synthesis of the heroic Mambi women and rebel combatants of yesterday, the embodiment of all women who today build a socialist society, on this day we convey our warm greetings, our recognition and our most sincere admiration for the marvelous task you have undertaken with so much love and dedication--the building of an increasingly better fatherland for the sake of a brighter and happier future. We ask you to make yours our irrevocable decision of forging together with you tomorrow's socialist and communist future.

Long live the heroic and selfless Cuban women! Long live proletarian internationalist! Fatherland or death, we shall win! [applause, shouts of "viva"]

MALMIERCA TO DEPART FOR ETHIOPIA 12 MARCH

NC090855Y Paris AFP in English 0824 GMT 9 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Havana, Mar 9 (AFP)--Cuban External Relations Minister Isidoro Malmierca will pay an official visit to Ethiopia on March 12, sources said here. There was no immediate official confirmation.

The sources said that the Cuban leader's visit to Addis Ababa would be made during a tour of several capitals, including Moscow, Baghdad and Rome.

It would be the first visit by a Cuban minister to the Ethiopian capital, and the first official visit by a Cuban leader to Ethiopia since the March 1977 one by head of state Fidel Castro.

PEDAGOGIC DETACHMENT PREPARES TO LEAVE FOR ANGOLA

PAQ82034Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Jorge Risquet, member of the Secretariat of the Cuban Communist Party, today met in Guines, Havana Province, with members of the Che Guevara internationalist pedagogic detachment who are getting ready there to leave for the People's Republic of Angola.

Risquet recounted the heroic struggle of the Angolan people and stated that these youths will be direct participants in the revolutionary process in southern Africa because they have been assigned to help in such a strategic field as education.

Further on in his speech, the Cuban leader talked about the critical situation left by Portuguese colonialism in Angola, which in the educational field translated into large-scale illiteracy and a complete lack of technicians. He noted that the exodus of professionals who served colonialism led to the inevitable closing of schools, factories, hospitals and enterprises of all types and forced the Angolan Government to hire approximately 30,000 technicians, mainly from the socialist nations, to resolve this situation.

Risquet said that the Che Guevara internationalist pedagogic detachment will make a decisive contribution to solving the problem of a lack of high school teachers in Angola and will insure the training of teachers to solve this problem permanently.

LECHUGA SAYS UNITED STATES VIOLATES CUBA'S RIGHTS

FL081235Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The United States has constantly violated human rights by its acts of aggression against Cuba since 1959, stated Cuban representative Carlos Lechuga upon addressing a session of the UN Human Rights Committee. In answer to remarks by a North American representative to the committee, Lechuga recounted the acts of aggression against Cuba, which include the economic blockade, armed infiltrations and assassination attempts against Cuban leaders

The Cuban representative criticized the hypocriticial allegations on human rights made by the United States and stated that the Washington government has kept political prisoners jailed for several years now. As an example, he cited the case of the Puerto Ricans who have been in jail for a quarter century.

ACTIVITIES OF CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ REPORTED

Attends Women's Day Reception

FL081134Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, last night attended a reception given in our capital by the Foreign Ministry for wives of heads of missions accredited to Cuba on the occasion of international women's day.

Receives SELA Permanent Secretary

FL082230Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2202 GMT 8 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, today received Jaime Moncayo, permanent secretary of the Latin American Economic System [SELA], who is visiting our country at the invitation of the Cuban Government. During the talks viewpoints on cooperation between Latin American countries within the framework of SELA programs and on Cuba's participation in the different action committees of the organization were exchanged. The two sides also discussed matters dealing with the next Latin American council meeting which will be held in Caracas next April under the sponsorship of SELA.

ROBERTO VEIGA MEETS WITH VENEZUELAN MIR LEADER

FL081543Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1516 GMT 8 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Moises Moriero, secretary general of the Venezuelan Movement of the Revolutionary Left--MIR, has met in Havana City with PCC Central Committee member Roberto Veiga, national secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers--CTC. CTC Executive Secretary Jesus Escandel participated in the meeting, at which the Latin American and especially the Venezuelan trade union movement was analyzed following a fruitful exchange of experiences.

HART ATTENDS OPENING OF ARTS EXPOSITION

FL081756Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Armando Hart, PCC Politburo and Council of State member and culture minister, presided over the opening of the extraordinary international exposition on plastic arts "30 Victorious Years" held in our country last night at the National Museum of Fine Arts. The opening remarks were made by Cultural Vice Minister Antonio Nunez Jimenez, president of the national monuments commission. Nunez Jimenez stated that this exposition is a testament of the struggle against fascism and of art pledged to peace and human and revolutionary progress, serving the peoples' cause.

POLITBURO MEMBERS SIGN GDR EMBASSY CONDOLENCE BOOK

FL090013Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Mar 78 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee Politburo members Blas Roca, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Armando Hart Davalos today visited the GDR Embassy to sign the book of condolences opened there on the occasion of the death of SED Politburo member Werner Lamberz while on a visit to Libya. Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Fabio Grobart, chairman of the PCC Central Committee history committee, both members of the PCC

Central Committee, Rolando Fundora, chief of the PCC Central Committee revolutionary orientation department; other officials of state agencies, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Cuba also visited the embassy to sign the book.

BLAS ROCA, MALMIERCA MEET TRINIDAD-TOBAGO ENVOY

FL091223Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Blas Roca Calderio, president of the National People's Government Assembly and vice president of the Council of State, has received Frank Owen Abdullah in a solemn audience. Mr Owen Abdullah presented his credentials as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary from the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Afterward, he was received by Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca.

FEU EVENT SUPPORTS NICARAGUAN STRUGGLE

FL081902Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Cuban University student body has reaffirmed its support for the Nicaraguan people and student body in their just cause against the Somoza dictatorship at a solidarity event held in our capital. It was closed by Marcos Lage, president of the Federation of University Students--FEU.

A multitude of students gathered at Havana University's Agramonte Plaza to hear Mauro Acosta, representative of the Nicaraguan Sandinist National Liberation Front. Lage stated that the event takes place at a time when the Nicaraguan people's struggle is intensifying, when workers, peasants and students are confronting the repressive forces, demonstrating the extraordinary strength of a people determined to obtain their full liberty.

PCC Central Committee member Manuel Pineiro, chief of its American Department, members of the Union of Young Communists National Committee, Havana University Rector Eustaquio Remedios de los Cuetos and other leaders presided at the event.

DOR INAUGURATES SECOND FRONT EXPOSITION

FL081155Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Exploits of the Frank Pais Second Front guerrillas and martyrs are renewed in every task performed by the people, stated Domestic Trade Minister Serafin Fernandez at the opening of an exhibit at the Revolutionary Orientation Department--DOR--exposition hall in Havana City. Politburo member Jose Machado Ventura, several members of the PCC Central Committee and senior Revolutionary Armed Forces officers were among those attending the opening of the Second Eastern Front exhibit.

BRIEFS

CAMAGUEY HARVEST WORK PRAISED--Sugar Industry Minister Marcos Lage has termed Camaguey Province's efforts in the current harvest as excellent. In his speech at an inspection and assistance meeting held in that province's capital, which was chaired by Raul Curbelo Morales, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Camaguey Province, Lage said that Camaguey's critical problems in the industry deal with fuel consumption and the condition of transportation means, mainly roads. In his closing remarks, Curbelo said the inspection and assistance visit represents a great benefit for the province and reaffirmed the workers' readiness to make the adjustments pointed out by the specialists. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Mar 78 FL]

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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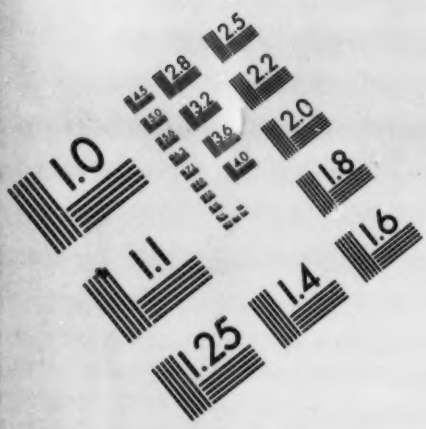


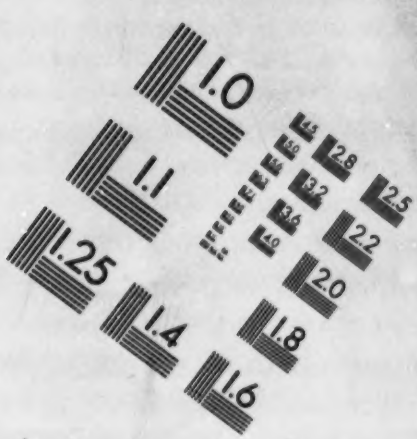
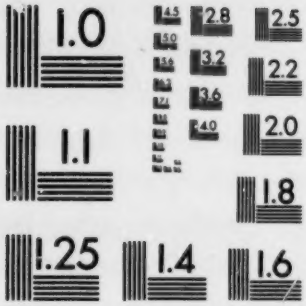
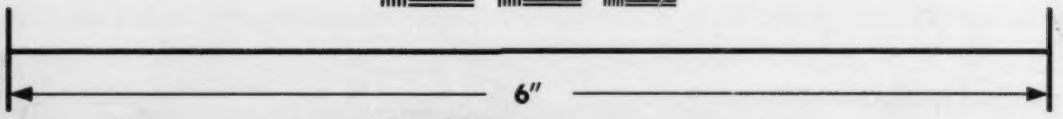


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)





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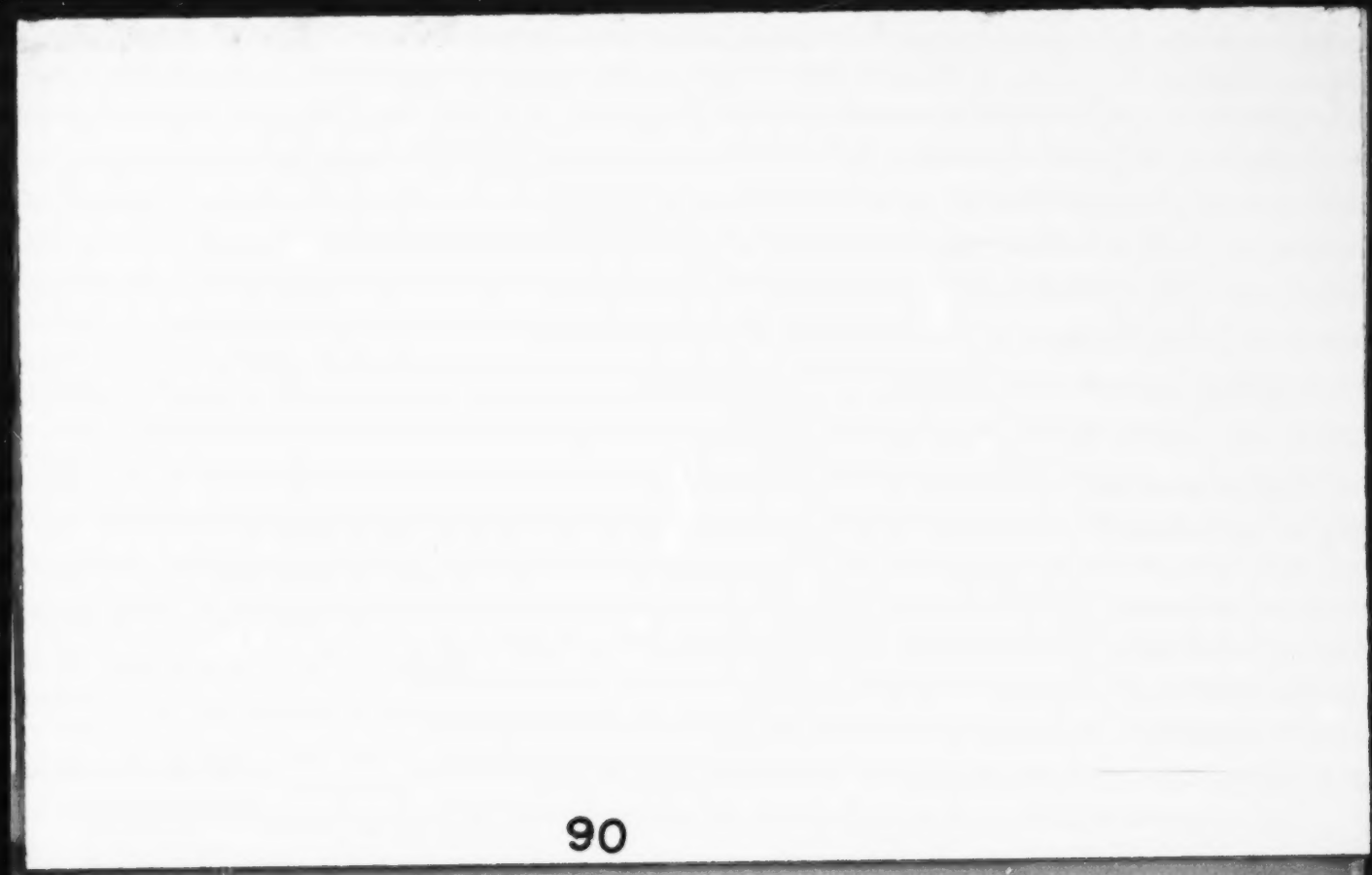
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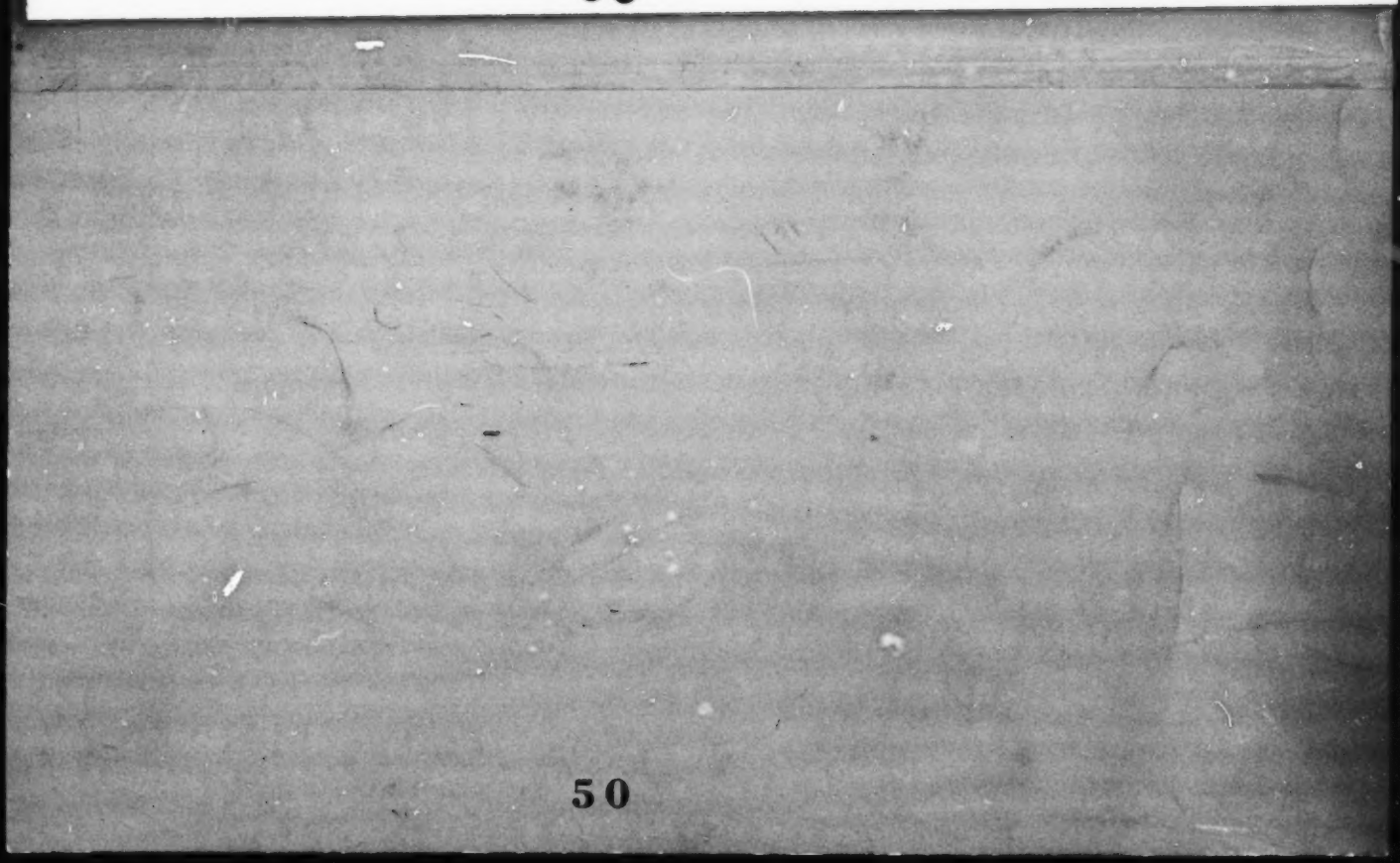
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